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# Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 H-01 STR-07 COME-00
OES-07 EPA-01 /035 W
----------060006 281232Z /14-11
R 280806Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5659
INFO AMCONSUL OSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3246

OSAKA PASS GOV ASKEW

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: CABLE TO AMBASSADOR FROM SEN STONE ON TBZ APPROVAL

1. FOLLOWING CABLE RECEIVED FROM SENATOR STONE FEB 27.
"THIS IS TO REITERATE THAT EARLY SPRING APPROVAL OF TBZ USE ON CITRUS IMPORTS TO JAPAN ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL TO FLORIDA CITRUS. RECENT DIPHENYL PROBLEMS HAVE MADE THIS APPROVAL URGENT. WOULD APPRECIATE AN EMBASSY STATUS REPORT ON TBZ".

2. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS FOLLOWING TO SEN STONE FROM AMBASSADOR: " AT THE REQUEST OF GOV ASKEW, WHO IS VISITING IN JAPAN, I HAVE CHECKED INTO THE TBZ SITUATION PERSONALLY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMS THAT IT IS WORKING ON THE PROBLEM, THAT APPROVAL WILL COME THROUGH WITHIN TWO TO FOUR MONTHS AND THAT THE ISSUE IS SO SENSITIVE THAT WE MUST LEAVE THE TIMING TO THEM AND AVOID ANY KIND OF PUBLICITY OR WE WILL LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR APPROVAL THIS YEAR AND PERHAPS PERMANENTLY. "THE ONLY COURSE OPEN TO ME OTHER THAN RELYING ON THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO DELIVER THE APPROVAL BY JUNE WOULD BE TO RAISE IT WITH THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, WHO MUST
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MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION ON APPROVAL. THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS WITH THIS APPROACH. FIRST, IF I SEE THE MINISTER, HE WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THE PRESS WHAT MY CALL WAS ABOUT AND THAT WILL GET THE KIND OF PUBLICITY THAT WILL RUIN CHANCES FOR APPROVAL. THE SECOND IS THAT THE MINISTER CAN ONLY ACT FAVORABLY AFTER HE HAS HAD A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FOOD SANITATION COUNCIL. IN ITS MOOD OF EXTREME SENSITIVITY, THE COUNCIL IS CERTAIN TO

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DISAPPROVE USE OF TBZ.
"I UNDERSTAND THE URGENCY FOR APPROVAL, BUT A MOVE NOW WOULD BE SURE TO FAIL. IN EXPLAINING THIS TO YOUR PEOPLE IN FLORIDA, THE BEST THAT YOU CAN DO IS TO ADVISE THEM OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE IN JAPAN AND THE NECESSITY FOR AVOIDING PUBLICITY. I KNOW THIS WILL GO DOWN HARD, BUT THE ONLY PRACTICABLE COURSE IS TO CONTINUE WITH DIPHENYL, CHANCY AS IT IS, FOR THE APRIL-MAY SHIPPING SEASON. YOUR LONG-TERM MARKET HERE DEPENDS ON TBZ. ANY ACTION BY THE EMBASSY OR THE FLORIDA SHIPPERS NOW TO TRY TO RUSH THE APPROVAL PROCESS WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE AND COULD WELL FORECLOSE PERMANENTLY THE POSSIBILITY FOR APPROVAL AND SUCCESSFUL FLORIDA EXPORTS TO JAPAN.
"WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS ON APPROVAL THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER CONTACTS, BUT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF FLORIDA GROWERS AND SHIPPERS FOR US TO PUSH TOO HARD TO SPEED UP THE APPROVAL PROCESS."
MANSFIELD

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# Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
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**Review Markings:**
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